CLAIMS

1) A water-base well fluid, characterized in that it comprises a lubricating compound containing at least one non-ionic amphiphilic compound obtained by reaction of at least one vegetable oil or one fatty acid on at least one aminoalcohol.

2) A fluid as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said vegetable oil or fatty acid is selected from the group consisting of linseed, safflower, grapeseed, wood, sunflower, rapeseed oil, or mixtures thereof, or of a fatty acid derived from these vegetable oils.

3) A fluid as claimed in any one of claims 1 and 2, characterized in that said vegetable oil is polymerized and has a viscosity ranging between 5 and 60 Pa.s at 20°C.

4) A fluid as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that said aminoalcohol is diethanolamine.

5) A fluid as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the lubricating compound is conditioned in form of a mixture comprising at least one solvent and possibly other compounds.

6) A fluid as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that said solvent is a vegetable oil derivative.

7) A fluid as claimed in any one of claims 5 and 6, characterized in that said mixture contains between 0 and 80 % by mass of solvent and preferably between 20 and 40 %.

8) A fluid as claimed in any one of the previous claims, characterized in that it comprises a concentration of 0.1 to 5 % by weight of said lubricating compound.

9) A fluid as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that said concentration ranges between 0.5 and 2 % by weight.

10) A fluid as claimed in any one of the previous claims, characterized in that its pH value is above 9, and preferably above 10.

11) A process for controlling the lubricating power of a water-base well fluid, characterized in that a lubricating compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 is added to said fluid.

12) Application of the process as claimed in claim 11 to well fluids with a pH value above 9 and preferably above 10.